

Message Text

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FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJ: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN WESTPHALIAN CDU ADMINISTRATION

1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WESTPHALIAN CDU HAS GIVEN
ITS APPROVAL TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN,
PROFESSOR KURT BIEDENKOPF, FOR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORGANIZATION. OTTO LAIPOLD (58),
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION SINCE 1959 WILL
RESIGN FROM HIS POSITION EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 1978,
ALTHOUGH HIS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT DOES NOT EXPIRE
UNTIL DECEMBER 30, 1981. HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY
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GUENTER MEYER, PRESENTLY EMPLOYED WITH THE
ORGANIZATION DIVISION OF THE FEDERAL CDU. FOR
ORIENTATION PURPOSES MEYER WILL START HIS NEW JOB
ON APR 1, 1978.

2. ON JUL 1, 1978 LAIPOLD WILL START IN A NEWLY
CREATED POSITION AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE

HERMANN-JOSEF DUFHUES FOUNDATION (NAMED AFTER THE LATE CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTPHALIAN CDU). HIS SALARY WILL BE GUARANTEED BY THE WESTPHALIAN CDU IN CASE THE FOUNDATION SHOULD BE UNABLE TO PAY IT.

3. THE CHANGE HAS BEEN IN THE OFFING SINCE SHORTLY AFTER BIEDENKOPF'S ELECTION AS WESTPHALIAN CDU CHAIRMAN IN JUNE 1977 BUT INITIALLY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED. HOWEVER, ON JAN 20, 1978 THE BOARD GAVE ITS APPROVAL. LAIPOLD'S RESIGNATION HAS GIVEN RISE TO SERIOUS CONCERN AMONG OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WESTPHALIAN CDU STAFF ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURE. LAIPOLD WAS WIDELY KNOWN AND HIGHLY POPULAR IN THE WESTPHALIAN CDU. THE NEW MAN, GUENTER MEYER, IS A DARK HORSE AS FAR AS THE NORTHRHINE-WESTPHALIAN POLITICAL SCENE IS CONCERNED, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF BIEDENKOPF, HIS FORMER BOSS AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL CDU.

4. THE HERMANN-JOSEF DUFHUES FOUNDATION IS STILL IN ITS EMBRYONIC STAGES AT BEST. IT WILL BE UP TO LAIPOLD TO BUILD THE LEGAL BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. FURTHERMORE IT IS EXPECTED THAT BIEDENKOPF, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION, WILL BE ABLE TO TAP THE FOUNDATION FOR FUNDS AND THAT OTHER AFFLUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPONSORS WILL BE FOUND. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW FOUNDATION IS VAGUELY DEFINED AS THE PROMOTION OF POLITICAL EDUCATION.DUX

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